REMARKS

Claims Status

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-27 were pending in this application. In the Office action, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-27 were rejected. In this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 14, and 15 are amended. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, for example, at pages 8-9. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Upon entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-27 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objections and rejections in light of the amendments and comments made here.

Claim Rejections

Applicants' counsel thanks the Examiner for the detailed Response to Arguments presented in the Office action.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite that "discovery of all cooperating nodes in the network of nodes is within a number of..." "repetitions" or "triggerings" "...that is a constant multiplied by the square of the logarithm of the number of cooperating nodes." Applicants submit that this language should address the concerns expressed in the Office action. If it does not, Applicants' counsel invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number below.

With regard to paragraph 2 of the Office action, the word "facilitates" is no longer included in the claim.

With regard to paragraph 3 of the Office action, the word "proportional" has been replaced by the language "a constant multiplied by." Applicant respectfully submits that this language is more clear and is not open-ended, and is frequently used in the art without confusion. For example, for a given number of N nodes, the square of the logorithm can be determined, and the constant O selected; and for a different number of nodes, it can be determined whether the same constant O applies. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the use of a "constant" (e.g., "O") in this context is clear and definite.
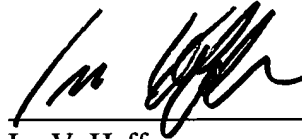
With regard to paragraph 4, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims also address the Examiner's concerns about the term "pseudorandom." The specification does not forclose the possibility that discovery will take place in $O \log^2 N$ rounds for pseudorandom selection, only that it is "presently not provable." Because the claims cover discovery "within a number of repetitions that is a constant multiplied by the square of the logarithm of the number of cooperating nodes," they are not indefinite or unsupported if they include pseudorandom selection.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited references. As acknowledged in the Office action, neither Brady nor Flammer teach or suggest discovery of cooperating nodes within a number of "repetitions" or "triggerings" that is "a constant multiplied by the square of the logarithm of the number of cooperating nodes."

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawl of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-27 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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